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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: mid-term review, follow-up and priorities for action, to be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 17 to 19 May 2005

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, in which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 22 March 2001 (A/56/61). The plan of action, in paragraph 22 (c), called on the Special Committee to organize seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action.

2. In its resolution 59/136 of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2005, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the seminar

3. The Caribbean regional seminar will be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 17 to 19 May 2005.

III. Purpose of the seminar

4. The purpose of the seminar is to carry out a mid-term review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in order to define priorities for follow-up and intensified action in the remaining years of the Decade. The seminar will also assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-government and self-determination, with a view to developing, in cooperation with the administering Powers and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar will also identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories within an integral framework ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

5. The seminar's discussions will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of the Territories.

6. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special

Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

IV. Agenda of the seminar

7. The agenda of the seminar is as follows:

1. Strategies for the successful completion of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   (a) Mid-term assessment of the level of implementation of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

   (b) Assessment of progress in individual Non-Self-Governing Territories in the process of achieving sustainable political and economic development:

      (i) By the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

      (ii) By the administering Powers;

   (c) Decolonization and the political status options, including independence, integration or free association, in relation to the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and Bermuda:

      (i) General overview and implications of each option;

      (ii) Perspective of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

      (iii) Perspective of the administering Powers;

   (d) Participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in organizations, assistance programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

2. Priority action to speed up the implementation of the decolonization mandate in the remaining years of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   (a) Action by the administering Powers and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

      (i) Developing on a case-by-case basis work plans for the completion of decolonization in the remaining Territories, in cooperation with the Special Committee;

      (ii) Ensuring, in cooperation with the Special Committee and the wider United Nations system, that the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration are prepared to make an educated choice regarding constitutional status in order to finalize the decolonization process;

      (iii) Adopting measures needed to promote political, economic, cultural and educational advancement in the Territories;

      (iv) Facilitating participation of the Territories in organizations, assistance programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

(v) Ensuring ownership by the Territories of their natural resources pursuant to General Assembly resolutions, and protection of the environment in Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) Action by the Special Committee:

(i) Strengthening dialogue with the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to developing on a case-by-case basis work plans for the completion of the decolonization process in individual Territories;

(ii) Developing a programme of coordination with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and international and regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

(c) Action by the United Nations system:

(i) Promoting participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in organizations, projects and programmes of the United Nations system within the scope of the respective charters;

(ii) Intensifying dissemination of information on the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and decolonization issues through the United Nations web site, radio, publications, photo exhibits and coverage of Special Committee activities;

(iii) Measures to promote the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on decolonization;

(iv) Developing political education programmes, in consultation with the Territories and the administering Powers, to foster an awareness among the people of the legitimate political status options available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960.

V. Organization of the seminar

8. The following provisions will govern the organization of the seminar:

(a) The seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and 10 other members representing each of the regional groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of Member States;

(ii) Representatives of the host Government;

(iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean regional seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. The organization of the seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the seminar

The seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau of the seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and a Chairman of the drafting group of the seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, pose questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working language of the seminar shall be English.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the seminar

Participation in the seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman.

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the seminar

(a) The meetings of the seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the seminar held in public.

(c) Participating organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman, with the consent of the seminar, may declare the list of speakers closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9
Report

The Rapporteur of the seminar shall prepare the draft report of the seminar. The Chairman, assisted by a drafting group appointed by him and to be chaired by one of the members of the drafting group, shall prepare draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar. The report of the seminar, with conclusions and recommendations, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration.

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).